

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2994 - SB 2893

February 22, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates a four-year pilot program, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, for parental involvement in all schools placed into the state's Achievement School District (ASD). Requires the Comptroller of the Treasury Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) to study the program in its second year and make recommendations to the Department of Education (DOE) on suggested changes and improvements. Requires OREA to make a report to the Education Committees of the General Assembly at the end of the pilot program, by July 1, 2016, on whether to continue and expand the program.

Defines parent and student for the purpose of the pilot program and establishes the expectations of parents. Provides these materials to the parents in packets disseminated by the schools within the ASD. Requires each teacher to monitor and assess the quality of parental involvement for each student in the class. States that a grade of excellent, satisfactory, needs improvement, or unsatisfactory will be given based on the parent's response to requests for meetings or communication; the student's completion of homework and preparation for tests; the student's physical preparation for school; and the frequency of the student's absence or tardiness. Authorizes a parent to appeal the assessed grade before any punitive measures are required via a process adopted by the ASD.

Requires written notice of a mandatory parent-teacher conference to parents who receive one grade of unsatisfactory on their report card. Requires written notice of mandatory parenting classes to a parent who receives a second grade of unsatisfactory on their report card. Requires parents to be financially responsible for the parenting classes, unless they are indigent. Requires the DOE to develop guidelines for determining indigence. A parent receiving a third grade of unsatisfactory shall receive written notification of mandatory family counseling. Requires parents to be financially responsible for counseling, unless determined to be indigent. Directs the DOE to establish the minimum number of counseling and parenting classes parents will be required to attend.

Requires the ASD and its schools to develop a parental honor roll or other method of recognizing and honoring parents whose parental involvement is satisfactory or exemplary. Urges the ASD to involve local business in offering incentives for parents receiving grades of satisfactory or excellent. Requires the ASD to develop guidelines for parent waivers for emergency situations, including but not limited to, family or health emergencies, natural disasters, and other similar situations.

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ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$285,300/FY12-13

Exceeds \$858,200/FY13-14

**Exceeds \$1,663,300/FY14-15 and Subsequent
Fiscal Years**

Assumptions:

- Since schools placed in the ASD are not under local control, all expenditures associated with parental reports will be state expenditures.
- The DOE has estimated that the cost for parenting classes will be \$29 per class and has estimated the number of parents who may be required to attend classes.
- The DOE is unable to estimate the number of parents who will be required to attend counseling sessions as a result of third offenses. For this reason, the increases in state expenditures do not include the cost for counseling sessions. The DOE estimates that counseling sessions will cost at least \$60 per session.
- The DOE has estimated that the number of students in the ASD in FY12-13 will be 1,700. Though the exact number of parents who will receive a low involvement grade is unknown, the DOE estimates that 35 percent of parents (595) may receive a low grade and will be required to attend parenting classes and counseling.
- According to the DOE, the schools within the ASD have a poverty rate at 95 percent or higher. The number of parents who will be declared indigent is unknown; however, it is assumed that the state will pay for parenting classes for indigent parents. For the purposes of this fiscal note, a 75 percent indigence rate is assumed resulting in 446 indigent parents in FY12-13.
- The increase in state expenditures for parenting classes in FY12-13 will be \$12,934 (\$29 x 446).
- In FY13-14, the DOE estimates that 5,400 students will be enrolled in the ASD. Thirty-five percent of parents (1,890) will take parenting classes and 75 percent of those will be declared indigent. A total of 1,418 parents will be declared indigent.
- The increase in state expenditures for parenting classes in FY13-14 will be \$41,122 (\$29 x 1,418).
- In FY14-15, the DOE estimates that 9,800 students will be enrolled in the ASD. Thirty-five percent of parents (3,430) will take parenting classes and 75 percent of those will be declared indigent. A total of 2,573 parents will be declared indigent.
- The increase in state expenditures for parenting classes in FY14-15 will be \$74,617 (\$29 x 2,573).
- One new person will be placed in each ASD school to help teachers track parental involvement data, maintain accurate records of indigence, and record actions taken as a result of poor scores. The increase in state expenditures for each person hired will be \$45,392 (\$30,000 salary + \$10,392 benefits + \$5,000).
- According to the DOE, there will be six schools in the ASD in FY12-13. The increase in state expenditures for personnel in FY12-13 will be \$272,352 (\$45,392 x 6 schools).

- There will be 18 schools in the ASD in FY13-14. The increase in personnel in FY13-14 will be \$817,056 ($\$45,392 \times 18$).
- There will be 35 schools in the ASD in FY14-15. The increase in personnel in FY14-15 will be \$1,588,720 ($\$45,392 \times 35$).
- The total increase in state expenditures in FY12-13 will exceed \$285,286 ($\$272,352 + \$12,934$).
- The total increase in state expenditures in FY13-14 will exceed \$858,178 ($\$817,056 + \$41,122$).
- The total increase in state expenditures in FY14-15 and subsequent fiscal years will exceed \$1,663,337 ($\$1,588,720 + \$74,617$).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucian D. Geise', is positioned above the printed name.

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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